

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /079 W

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R 231526Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7389

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

:USMISSION USUN 320

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 2527

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY, XF, XI, XJ

SUBJECT: AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE, DAKAR

REF: CAIRO 5091

1. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM MOHAMED RIAD'S VIEW THAT KHADDAM'S PRESENCE AT DAKAR MEANT HE HAD BEEN DOWNGRADED IN SYRIAN POLICY COUNCILS. HIS JANUARY STATEMENT IN KUWAIT THREATENING SYRIAN "ANNEXATION" OF LEBANON REPORTEDLY IRRITATED ASAD, BUT HE HAS NEVERTHELESS REMAINED IN INNER CORE OF PRESIDENT'S ADVISORS ON LEBANESE CRISIS.

2. ON CONTRARY, WE BELIEVE KHADDAM'S PRSENCE AT DAKAR WAS INTENDED TO REINFORCE SYRIA'S DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISRAEL, WHETHER OR NOT ME ISSUES ARE FORMALLY DISCUSSED AT CONFERENCE. APRIL 23 AL-BAATH REPORTED THAT CONFERENCE IN ITS FINAL COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED "COMPLETE SUPPORT BY THE ARAB AND AFRICAN STATES FOR STURGGLE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" AND DEPLORED IMPERIALISM, ZIONISM AND ALL FORMS OF RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION IN AFRICA, PALESTINE AND OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS.

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3. KHADDAM PERSONALLY CONSIDERS LEBANESE CRISIS, HOWEVER IMPORTANT AT THIS MOMENT, IS SECONDARY TO SYRIA'S BASIC CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT KHADDAM HAD INTENDED TO LEAD SYRIA'S DELEGATION TO CONFERENCE OF 77 IN MANILA LAST JANUARY, BUT ASAD KEPT HIM BACK AT LAST MINUTE. SYRIA HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN TASK OF PREPARING ME POSITION PAPERS FOR COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. ALL THIS IS IN FURTHERANCE OF SYRIA'S POLICY OF MAINTAINING AND INCREASING INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON ISRAEL, INCLUDING TESTING THE SUPPORT WHICH MIGHT BE OBTAINABLE FOR A SYRIAN-SPONSORED CHALLENGE TO ISRAELI CREDENTIALS AT NEXT UNGA. WE SUSPECT THAT KHADDAM WAS PROBABLY VERY ACTIVE IN THE COORIDORS AT DAKAR AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY DAKAR MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN ON HIS ACTIVITIES DURING CONFERENCE.

MURPHY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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